WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. In a computer network, a method comprising,

providing a profile schema, the profile schema having profile-related fields arranged into a content document with defined structures for the fields;

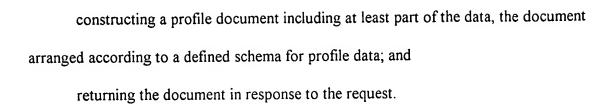
receiving a data access request directed to contact information, the request including associated identity information; and

in response to the data access request, manipulating at least one set of data in a logical profile document that includes data therein according to the associated identity information, each set of data in the logical profile document structured to correspond to a field in the content document.

- 2. The method of claim 1 wherein manipulating at least one set of data comprises reading data from at least one field in the logical profile document.
- 3. The method of claim 1 wherein manipulating at least one set of data comprises writing data to at least one field in the logical profile document.
 - 4. In a computer network, a method comprising,

receiving a request to retrieve profile data, the request including associated identity information;

reading from a data store to obtain profile data based on the associated identity information:



5. The method of claim 4 wherein the schema includes at least one defined field for extending the schema.